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LETTER DATED 7 SEPTEMBER 1996 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to inform you of the continued violations of the cease-fire resolution and the Tehran agreement concerning the area of separation between Iraq and Iran that were committed by the Iranian side between 22 July and 26 August 1996, as shown in the list annexed hereto.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Saeed A. HASAN
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

96-23342 (E) 100996 100996

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Annex

Iranian violations of the cease-fire and the 1991 Tehran agreement, 22 July-26 August 1996

1. 22 July 1996

An Iranian launch approached one of the sunken Iranian cargo vessels in the Shahiniyah area at coordinates 295640. Observation revealed that the launch was towing a small pontoon, which was tied up to the sunken vessel. Eight men proceeded to use a suction pump to empty the water from the vessel with a view to refloating it and towing it over to the Iranian side.

2. 22 July 1996

At 0800 hours an Iranian fibreglass boat approached the Iraqi shore of the Shatt al-Arab in the Fayhan area at coordinates 310576. The boat was manned by two individuals, one wearing civilian clothing and the other military uniform. One of the Iraqi posts fired in the air to warn the Iranian craft off and prevent it from approaching, whereupon it fled. One of the Iranian posts located on the Iranian shore opposite Fayhan fired some 30 shots from a Kalashnikov assault rifle in the direction of Iraqi fishing vessels in the area.

3. 10 August 1996

An Iranian fibreglass patrol boat with a 48 HP Yamaha engine approached the Ma'amir area in the Shatt al-Arab at coordinates 542265. The patrol boat carried four men wearing civilian clothing and armed with Kalashnikov assault rifles, and they opened fire in the direction of one of a group of scout craft belonging to the Iraqi side. These are civilian craft, and their crews wear civilian clothing. Five shots were fired. The Iranian patrol boat then withdrew towards the Iranian shore, where it remained until 0300 hours on 11 August 1996.

4. 12 August 1996

At 0130 hours a picket belonging to I Company, Second Border Guards, of the Iraqi Naval Command intercepted a number of armed men aboard a small boat in the Ziyadiyah area at coordinates 420534. The armed men fled in the direction of the Iranian shore.

5. 13 August 1996

At 0830 hours an Iranian Chinook helicopter landed at Majma' Khosrawi at coordinates 4405. Twenty-five civilians emerged from it, and one of them proceeded to photograph the surrounding areas. At 1300 hours the helicopter took off and departed in the direction of the Iranian interior.

6. 14 August 1996

At 1200 hours the Iranian side proceeded to tow the Iranian cargo vessel Iryasam from the Shahiniyah area towards the Karun River. This operation was carried out by an Iranian tug accompanied by an Iranian launch.

7. 15 August 1996

At 0100 hours a picket stationed at the location referred to in item 4 above intercepted a number of armed men aboard two boats. These men also fled in the direction of the Iranian shore.

8. 26 August 1996

At 2330 hours an Iranian fibreglass boat, gunmetal grey in colour, approached one of the Iraqi fishing boats south of the island of Umm al-Rassas at coordinates 484679. The Iranian craft was carrying four men wearing military uniform and armed with Kalashnikov assault rifles. A line was made fast to the Iraqi fishing boat, and the Iranian craft proceeded to tow it to the Iranian shore. The crew of the fishing boat were able to escape during the towing operation. Their names are as follows:

1 - Shakir Jawad

2 - Zahir Talib

3 - Jasim Rumi.

The first two of the men whose names are listed above reached the Iraqi shore in safety, while the fate of the third man is still unknown.